

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A direct material deposition method comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a powdered material that can be incited by a laser beam;
 - b. providing a laser nozzle assembly having multiple laser beams coupled with said powdered material from a set of powder nozzles directed to approximately a same location;
 - c. positioning a deposition substrate adjacent to ~~laser-deposition head outlets~~ the laser nozzle assembly;
 - d. heating said powdered material on said deposition substrate with said laser beams; and
 - e. providing relative motion between ~~said laser-deposition head outlets~~ the laser nozzle assembly and said deposition substrate.
2. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said heating step fuses said powdered material to said deposition substrate to create a thin layer of material.
3. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said step of providing a laser nozzle assembly comprises providing a laser nozzle assembly having multiple laser beams focused on approximately a same location.
4. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein in said providing relative motion step the relative motion derives from a CAD model.
5. (previously presented) The method of Claim 4, additionally comprising the step of employing a single laser beam to outline features defining surfaces of an object under construction.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim 5 ~~4~~, additionally comprising the step of employing multiple laser beams to fill featureless regions defining surfaces of said object.

7. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said laser beams are controlled individually, and wherein one or more of the beams are modulated on and off during part of the deposition process to create one or more line deposits simultaneously.

8. (previously presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein said laser beams are controlled individually, and wherein two or more of the beams are modulated on and off during part of the deposition process to create two or more line deposits simultaneously.

9. (currently amended) A direct material deposition method comprising the steps of:

- a. providing a powdered material that can be incited by a laser beam;
- b. providing a laser nozzle assembly having three or more laser beams coupled with said powdered material from a set of powder nozzles directed to approximately a same location;
- c. positioning a deposition substrate adjacent to ~~laser deposition head outlets~~ the laser nozzle assembly;
- d. heating said powdered material on said deposition substrate with said laser beams; and
- e. providing relative motion between said ~~laser deposition head outlets~~ laser nozzle assembly and said deposition substrate.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said heating step fuses said powdered material to said deposition substrate to create a thin layer of material.

11. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein said step of providing a laser nozzle assembly comprises providing a laser nozzle assembly having three or more laser beams focused on approximately a same location.

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 9, wherein in said providing relative motion step the relative motion derives from a CAD model.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, additionally comprising the step of employing a single laser beam to outline features defining surfaces of an object under construction.

14. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, additionally comprising the step of employing multiple laser beams to fill featureless regions defining surfaces of said object.

15. (currently amended) The method of Claim 4 9, wherein said laser beams are controlled individually, and wherein one or more of the beams are modulated on and off during part of the deposition process to create one or more line deposits simultaneously.

16. (previously presented) The method of Claim 15, wherein said laser beams are controlled individually, and wherein two or more of the beams are modulated on and off during part of the deposition process to create two or more line deposits simultaneously.

17. (new) The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

- a. depositing the material in a set of equally spaced lines, wherein the lines are spaced an integral multiple of a width of a line;
- b. providing relative motion between the laser nozzle assembly and the deposition substrate in an amount of a lesser integral multiple of the line width;
- c. depositing an additional set of equally spaced lines parallel to the first set of spaced lines; and
- d. repeating steps (b) and (c) until an area between the lines of the first set of spaced lines is completely filled with the material, thereby forming a flat layer of material with uniform thickness.

18. (new) The method of Claim 9 further comprising the steps of:

- a. depositing the material in a set of equally spaced lines, wherein the lines are spaced an integral multiple of a width of a line;
- b. providing relative motion between the laser nozzle assembly and the deposition substrate in an amount of a lesser integral multiple of the line width;
- c. depositing an additional set of equally spaced lines parallel to the first set of spaced lines; and
- d. repeating steps (b) and (c) until an area between the lines of the first set of spaced lines is completely filled with the material, thereby forming a flat layer of material with uniform thickness.